

THE GREAT WAR IN KOREA.

Russia's Policy is the Unknown Quantity.

CHINA'S PRIDE AND CONSERVATISM.

Japanese Ambition and Chinese Stupidity—A Long Smothered but Jealous Rivalry Between the Two Nations—Facts About Oriental Diplomacy.

The outbreak of war between China and Japan on the peninsula of Korea is the outgrowth of a long-smothered and jealous rivalry between the two empires for political and maritime supremacy in Eastern Asia. The events which have led up to the present crisis are so complex, and the underlying causes are so obscure, that an understanding of the situation is scarcely



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possible without some knowledge of the national aspirations, policy and secret motives, of China, Japan and Russia.

The overbearing pride and ancient conservatism of China, the ambitious martial spirit and characteristic conceit of Japan, and the crafty designs and traditional policy of territorial aggrandizement of Russia are the prime factors in the impending conflict. The Russian policy is at once the unknown quantity and the most potent factor in the Korean problem.

From attentive observations of past and current political events in the far East, and from more or less familiarity with diplomatic action and intercourse between the three great oriental powers, extending over a long series of years, I venture the assertion that Russian diplomacy, rather than Chinese suzerainty over Korea, is responsible for the present war.

It will be found, if the Korean chapter of oriental diplomacy is ever divulged, that the present crisis has been adroitly assisted by unscrupulous diplomatic juggling and double dealing on the part of the Russian official agents at St. Petersburg, Tokio and Peking; that the ambitious vanity of Japan has been systematically and selfishly played against the supple and stupid pride of China, and that it is one more object lesson in the same school of Muscovite statecraft which led the first Napoleon to make the sneering remark that "whenever you find a Russian you will catch a Tartar."

It requires but a glance at the map of the eastern hemisphere to comprehend the transcendent importance of the geographical position which the peninsula of Korea holds to the whole of maritime Asia. In many respects it occupies a position to the eastward world analogous to that of Turkey in Europe. Its political relations with China and Japan ever since the establishment of the Manchu Tartar dynasty has been anomalous and unique, acknowledging at the same time allegiance to both China and Japan. The same double allegiance was submitted to by the Loo Choo Islands until the settlement of the Formosan difficulty in 1873, when China, with ill-concealed mortification, was compelled to pay a heavy war indemnity and to relinquish forever her claim to the suzerainty of Loo Choo. It was predicted at the outbreak of the Formosan affair that if it came to an issue China would finally crush Japan by her sheer weight and inertia. Before she was able to strike a blow, however, Gen. Saigo, with an army of 10,000 men, invaded Formosa, crushed the natives and reduced the island to submission. Two years later an unprovoked attack by some Koreans upon the Japanese steamer Unokan, while seeking coal and friendly shelter in a Korean port, aroused intense excitement throughout Japan and afforded the pretext which the Mikado's Government really desired, to try conclusions with Korea. A naval expedition was hastily fitted out and dispatched thither under the command of Count Kuroda, who was also prudently armed with full plenipotentiary powers, after the fashion of Commodore Perry.

Gen. Kuroda's negotiations proved immensely successful. To the astonishment of the world, a treaty was negotiated by him (February 27, 1876) throwing open the trade and commerce, for the first time in history, the principal ports of the Hermit Kingdom. The most astonishing feature of the Kuroda-Japanese-Korean convention was the voluntary relinquishment of all claim to Japanese suzerainty over Korea and the distinct recognition of her as a sovereign and independent nation. Such terms to a weak, defenseless enemy bespoke a liberality and breadth of statesmanship such as is not generally credited to Asiatic statesmen.

The suspected ambition of Japan for territorial conquest, her rising power and influence, and her leaning toward

Western ideas have all excited extreme jealousy in China, and as a means of checkmating these designs upon Korea, the Government at Peking has industriously employed itself for years in putting forward its claim to suzerainty over the kingdom, in the comfortable expectation, no doubt, of sooner or later completely absorbing it.

Both countries are alike jealous, with the mutual fear that the other may get a hold upon Korea. In their blind jealousy of each other they appear to entirely overlook the important fact that their mutual safeguard and only sure defense against the aggressions of their dreaded and powerful neighbor, Russia, is dependent on a united purpose to uphold the sovereign independence of a friendly intervening state.

It is morally certain that neither of the contending powers would be able single-handed to maintain for long a footing in Korea against Russia. Within the last twenty-five years the whole eastern seaboard of Asia, from the mouth of the Amoor on the north to the borders of Korea on the south, including the island of Saghalien, has fallen into Russian possession. Another step southward and Russia becomes the undisturbed master of the maritime boundaries of both China and Japan.

As to the probable outcome of the present struggle it is impossible to predict at the present time. If the war turns out to be of short duration, the chances of success are greatly in favor of Japan. In striking contrast with other Asiatic nations, the Japanese are martial in spirit, easily aroused, and in battle fierce and sanguinary to a degree. Twelve centuries of civil wars, during the development and consolidation of the empire, served to create a numerous and powerful military class among them, who have made war a profession and in whom there has been developed a marked military genius. This influential and powerful class, known as the Samurai, is the representative or type of regenerated Japan. They are at once the brawn and brains, no less than the patriotism, of the nation. It was they who swept away the feudal system of Japan, overthrew the Tycoon and restored the Mikado to power, and it is they who are the leading spirits in the present revolution in Korea. Their numbers and dominating influence in the rank and file give the army and navy of Japan an esprit du corps as marked and vigorous as that of the modern armies of Europe.

The regular standing army of Japan, consisting mainly of about 50,000 infantry, is finely armed with Murata breech-loaders and a complement of field pieces. In the opinion of General Grant, which he frequently expressed while he was visiting Japan, the Japanese in its organization, discipline and equipment, is quite up to the average European standards. Japan can, upon short notice, throw an effective army of nearly 100,000 men into the field, and within a reasonable time she can organize and equip the whole body of her laudwehr.

It is to be remembered that the whole police organization of Japan is, in itself, a distinct, separate and powerful military organization.

The navy and naval armament of Japan are the special idols of the nation, and are fully equal, if not superior, to the army. The war vessels and guns are all of the latest and most approved European construction and sign. In fact, Japan is in possession of every modern appliance in the art of naval warfare known to the nations of Europe. Her warships have all been built in Europe, and are well supplied with modern armament, guns of large caliber, twin screws, steel rams, etc.

With such a naval outfit, backed by a competent and efficient army, once in Korea, it will require all the acknowledged resources of China to dislodge them.

It is highly probable that the treaty powers, in the interest of foreign commerce, may unite in demanding that the seat of war be localized and strictly confined to Korean territory and the adjacent seas. Such action on the part of the Western powers, if taken, will have the effect of greatly assisting Japan, in that it will leave her practically free to concentrate her entire naval and military strength upon a smaller number of strategic points, and will have the further effect of removing the seat of war further from the Chinese base of supply.

Should the war continue for a sufficient period of time to thoroughly arouse the jealousies and animosities of the two nations, there is great danger that it may degenerate into a deadly, fanatical struggle, and the world may behold a carnival of bloodshed, rapine and plunder unknown to the nations of Western Europe since the march of the "ever victorious army" under Li Hung Chang and General Gordon against the Tae Ping rebels a quarter of a century ago.

—S. F. Chronicle.

WHITE'S CASE POSTPONED.

The Attorney-General Asks for Another Bondsman.

The case of Arthur White, charged with assault with a deadly weapon, was called in the Circuit Court Tuesday, but was postponed. Paul Neumann, White's attorney, stated that his client was ill, and unable to appear. Dr. Brodie, the attending physician, was called, and said that White's eyes were giving him great trouble, and he could not be in any other than a darkened room without serious injury.

Attorney-General Smith then said he did not consider White's bondsman sufficient surety for the bonds fixed, \$2000, and asked that some other bondsman be appointed. Mr. Neumann asked that the present sureties be kept a few days longer, when he would see to it that an acceptable bond was furnished. The present bondsman are Edward Hopkins and Charles Phillips.

A FINE SUMMER RESORT.

Kawaapae, Maui, and the Beautiful View it Commands.

KAWAAPAE (Maui), August 8.—Sited at an elevation of about 1400 feet above sea level, in the Makawao district, Kawaapae commands one of the most extensive residence views on the islands. In its more immediate vicinity is a slightly rolling, open and extensive country of fine grazing land, skirted and crossed by processions of eucalyptus. Far below, spread out in panorama, are numerous large sugar cane plantations, the light green of the extensive fields forming a pleasing contrast to the reds peculiar to the soil of the lowlands.

Speckelsville plantation, with its eleven camps, stretches itself entirely across the seven miles of low isthmus joining East and West Maui. Beyond the isthmus are the bold and peaked, cloud-encircled mountains of West Maui, cleft by many deep, dark gorges, famous amongst which is Iao Valley—a miniature Yosemite. This great upheaval is skirted by a belt of lowland dotted by the green plantations and villages of Maalaea, Waikapu, Wailuku, Waiehu, and Waihee. Oftentimes the clouds roll away and the greater part of mountainous Molokai, looking over the lower spurs of West Maui, comes boldly into view. The emerald greens and turquoise blues and surf-washed shores of Kahului bay to the north and Maalaea bay to the south of the isthmus, together with a vast expanse of ocean, occasionally blue and calm, but oftener lashed into white-capped waves reaching nearly out to the elevated horizon, all combine to make an ever pleasing picture, new every morning, and colored anew every evening by the rare, gray and gold, amber, and heliotrope effects of sea and sky.

An upward sweep of the eye takes in a gradually sloping and snow-white open, rolling country with occasional belts of forest land, edged here and there with the white cottages of home-steads at perhaps an elevation of 4000 or 5000 feet, and finally rests upon the summit of Haleakala, 10,000 feet above sea level. What one really sees is but the rim of the largest extinct crater in the world, thirty miles in circumference, several thousand feet in depth, containing thirteen extinct craters, and commanding an unparalleled view of sunrise and sunset above the clouds. In early morning the summit stands out clear out against the sky, but usually later in the day the clouds envelope and sweep over it, their dark and varying shadows ever obliterating bright flecks of sunshine and adding to the grandeur of the view.

The climate of Makawao is unparalleled. Cool and almost constant winds sweep down from the mountain top, snow-clad for days at a time in midwinter. The air is bracing and invigorating. The thermometer on the leeward side of the house seldom exceeds 85 per cent., even at this season of the year and in the middle of the day. At night one is comfortable under two good wool blankets, and yet thin clothing can be worn, even in winter, until late in the afternoon.

The roads all over this portion of the island are exceptionally good and might do credit to any level country. The red dust of the lowlands is left far behind before reaching this point, and, although this is the dry season of the year, the dust is no worse than in any country place, and as for this spot the wind blows it away, and not toward the house. One only has to step inside to find everything thoroughly neat and free from dust.

To reach here from Honolulu visitors should take the Claudine at 5 p.m. On reaching Kahului at 5 o'clock the next morning, Mrs. H. B. Bailey, the hostess of Kawaapae, should be immediately telephoned to send a conveyance to Paia, the terminus of the railroad. The cars leave in about fifteen minutes for that point; the fare is 35 cents; the distance about six and a half miles. The carriage fare from Paia to this resort is \$1.50; the distance not quite four miles, over an excellent road. A warm breakfast is in readiness for all new arrivals. If passengers have extra baggage that cannot be conveniently stowed away in the carriage, it will be well, in telephoning to Mrs. Bailey from Kahului, to notify her to that effect.

The bedrooms are new, of good size, and neatly and newly furnished, airy, and commanding both a mauka and makai (mountain and sea) view. The rates are \$10 per week, and the visitor will find ample compensation, for one could go to a more expensive resort and be far less comfortable. The hostess is very kind and considerate.

Both saddle and carriage horses for individual or party use can be hired on the place at very reasonable rates. This is a most excellent starting point for the extinct crater of Haleakala. Parties leave here about 10 a.m., and have an excellent road for six or seven miles, the remaining seven miles is more of a trail.

Even at a walk, which is necessary for the last half of the distance, the skimmitt may be reached an hour or two before sundown.

Fires are built by the guide, and supper prepared and eaten. Parties all muffled up in blankets sleep over night under an overhanging cliff, and are up betimes in the morning to see the sun rise. Then follows the downward journey, reaching here a little before midday.

Horses for the round trip are furnished at \$7. The guide's charge for taking up a party is \$10. Good, plain lunches are furnished at the house. Those wishing to remain but a few days can leave here on Saturday in time for the 5 p.m. boat for Honolulu, reaching there Sunday morning at about the same hour; but those who can remain longer and enjoy the delightful air, the superb view, and horseback jaunts about the open country, will find themselves well repaid for the time and money.

A VISITOR.

The Commissioners of Crown Lands issued an exhaustive report for the bi-annual period. Several maps accompany it.

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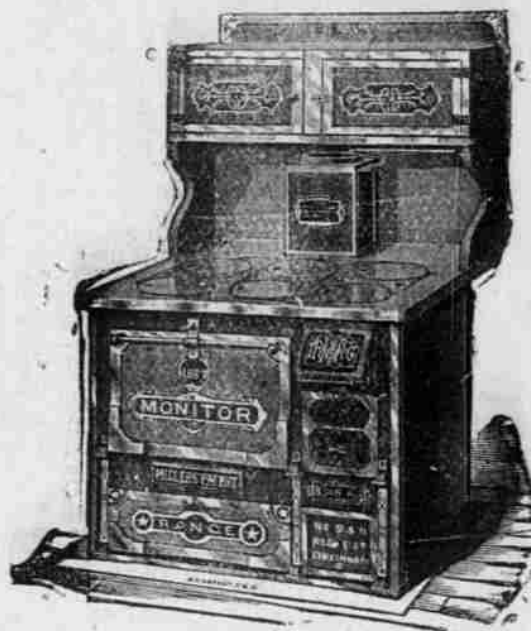
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